



# NORTHBOROUGH

## Worcester County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

The Town of Northborough, originally part of the Towns of Marlborough -- then Westborough, was incorporated in 1766 and became a full-fledged town with the right of representation at the Great and General Court of Boston in 1775.

The early churches of Massachusetts, called "meeting houses," were the center of all town activity. Built on land given by Capt. James Eager, Northborough's first Meeting House stood about where the First Congregational Unitarian Church is today, on Church Street. Town meetings were held there, as were church services -- at which attendance was compulsory. The only religion tolerated within the Puritan Massachusetts Bay Colony was that of the Congregational Church, which, at that time, had strong Calvinist tenets. The church "tithing men" were the legally elected officers of the town, while town ministers were the arbiters of both town and family life. Customarily, they had strong influence in the conduct of the schools, which were not nearly as important to the founding fathers as was the church, and had no formal setup until well after everything else in town was established.

Northborough's open town meeting "grass roots" government now operates under its own home rule charter. The governing body of the town are the five elected members of the town's select board and the town meeting membership of registered voters. In the days of unheated meeting houses, town meetings were often adjourned to the warmth of the famous Post Road state stop, Monroe's Tavern. This tavern now stands on the spot to which it was removed in 1867, at the corner of Blake and Pierce streets. The meeting locale of the select board as well as the "official" offices of the town have moved from the first church to the second church vestry to the Old Town House to the "old" Town Hall (which merited a listing from the National Park Service Department as an Historical Architectural Monument, having the longest roof span of any known French Mansard roof style building) to the "new" Town Hall, which is the old Northborough High School -- built in the early 1930s.

Along the old Boston Post Road, commemorative plaques outline historical events including the place where Mary Goodnow, a young Northborough settler, was scalped by Indians in 1707. Scattered along the tributaries of the Assabet River, numerous mills serve as markers of another kind, commemorating the places where textile manufacturing and other early industry boomed, and then, ebbed and died. Today, in addition to providing the setting for several working farms, Northborough is also host to a burgeoning research and development-oriented industrial park; however, the town serves primarily as a residential area, rural home to Boston and Worcester commuters.



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Central eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Berlin on the north, Westborough on the south, Marlborough on the east, Southborough on the southeast, and Boylston and Shrewsbury on the west. Northborough is 10 miles northeast of Worcester, 30 miles west of Boston, and 190 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 18.76 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 18.54 sq. miles

**Population:** 11,929

**Density:** 643 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Clinton Station)

Normal temperature in January.....23.4°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.3°F

Normal annual precipitation.....47.0"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Shrewsbury, Marlborough

## Regional Planning Agency

Central Massachusetts

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Worcester



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 393-5001

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Administrator

Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1775

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	7,241		
Democrats	1,647	22.7	%
Republicans	1,532	21.2	%
Other parties	6	0.1	%
Unenrolled Voters	4,056	56.0	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Northborough town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	14,013	100.0	<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			Total population.....	14,013	100.0
Male.....	6,893	49.2	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	179	1.3
Female.....	7,120	50.8	Mexican.....	46	0.3
Under 5 years.....	1,028	7.3	Puerto Rican.....	40	0.3
5 to 9 years.....	1,280	9.1	Cuban.....	8	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	1,229	8.8	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	85	0.6
15 to 19 years.....	793	5.7	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	13,834	98.7
20 to 24 years.....	427	3.0	White alone.....	12,903	92.1
25 to 34 years.....	1,561	11.1	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
35 to 44 years.....	2,828	20.2	Total population.....	14,013	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	2,284	16.3	In households.....	13,881	99.1
55 to 59 years.....	711	5.1	Householder.....	4,906	35.0
60 to 64 years.....	502	3.6	Spouse.....	3,378	24.1
65 to 74 years.....	833	5.9	Child.....	4,835	34.5
75 to 84 years.....	400	2.9	Own child under 18 years.....	3,980	28.4
85 years and over.....	137	1.0	Other relatives.....	366	2.6
Median age (years).....	37.4	(X)	Under 18 years.....	117	0.8
18 years and over.....	9,881	70.5	Nonrelatives.....	396	2.8
Male.....	4,762	34.0	Unmarried partner.....	177	1.3
Female.....	5,119	36.5	In group quarters.....	132	0.9
21 years and over.....	9,593	68.5	Institutionalized population.....	116	0.8
62 years and over.....	1,665	11.9	Noninstitutionalized population.....	16	0.1
65 years and over.....	1,370	9.8	<b>HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE</b>		
Male.....	588	4.2	Total households.....	4,906	100.0
Female.....	782	5.6	Family households (families).....	3,866	78.8
<b>RACE</b>			With own children under 18 years.....	2,130	43.4
One race.....	13,904	99.2	Married-couple family.....	3,378	68.9
White.....	13,033	93.0	With own children under 18 years.....	1,846	37.6
Black or African American.....	91	0.6	Female householder, no husband present.....	372	7.6
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	11	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	228	4.6
Asian.....	708	5.1	Nonfamily households.....	1,040	21.2
Asian Indian.....	257	1.8	Householder living alone.....	841	17.1
Chinese.....	296	2.1	Householder 65 years and over.....	304	6.2
Filipino.....	9	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	2,217	45.2
Japanese.....	6	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	915	18.7
Korean.....	86	0.6	Average household size.....	2.83	(X)
Vietnamese.....	21	0.1	Average family size.....	3.22	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	33	0.2	<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	10	0.1	Total housing units.....	5,002	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	4,906	98.1
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	2	-	Vacant housing units.....	96	1.9
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	8	0.1	occasional use.....	19	0.4
Some other race.....	51	0.4	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.4	(X)
Two or more races.....	109	0.8	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	1.8	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
<i>or more other races: <sup>3</sup></i>			Occupied housing units.....	4,906	100.0
White.....	13,132	93.7	Owner-occupied housing units.....	4,123	84.0
Black or African American.....	111	0.8	Renter-occupied housing units.....	783	16.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	30	0.2	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.98	(X)
Asian.....	758	5.4	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.05	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	11	0.1			
Some other race.....	84	0.6			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	126
Conventional Federal:	0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

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Located in the Worcester area, which has three major cross-state highways: the Worcester Turnpike (Route 9), Route 20, and the Massachusetts Turnpike. I-495 borders to the east, I-190 links to the Fitchburg-Leominster area, I-84 and I-395 connect to Connecticut and points south. The region is well connected by rail and highway to the ports, airports, and intermodal facilities of Boston and Providence.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are U.S. Route 20, Interstate 290, which connects Interstate Route 495 with Worcester, and State Routes 9 and 135. Interstate Routes 90 and 495 form an interchange in the neighboring town of Westborough.

### Rail

Conrail provides freight service to Northborough. Contact number: (617) 783-6222

### Bus

Northborough is a member of the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) but does not receive services. Cavalier Coach Corporation provides commuter service to 4 locations in Boston.

### Other

The Worcester Municipal Airport, a Primary Commercial (PR) facility with scheduled passenger service, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 5,500' and 6,999' long. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Northborough Historical Society  
50 Main Street  
(508) 393-8249

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

Grangers Nrsg Home, Inc.

Thornton Nursing Home

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.